

Bridgnorth
Rural District Council

REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st December, 1947.

Bridgnorth Rural District Council

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Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGNORTH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

L. E. DICKSON, M.D.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

L. E. DICKSON, M.D. (Part-time).

Sanitary Inspector :

R. POWELL, Cert.S.I.B. From 1/1/47 to 31/5/47.

S. J. YELLAND, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.I.C.S.,

From 1/6/47 to 31/12/47.

SECTION "A."

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres, 101,040.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population, mid-1947,
12,660.

Rateable Value, £57,872.

Sum represented by penny rate. £242 14s. 4d.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1947, 3,488.

							Total
LIVE BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	...	218
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
STILL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
DEATHS	...	...	...	...	...	...	136

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population, 17.2.

RATE per 1,000 total live and still births, 13.5.

DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population, 10.72.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

Puerperal Sepsis, Nil.

Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births, Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY :

Deaths of infants under one year of age :

				Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	8	5	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	Nil		

DEATH RATES :

All infants per 1,000 live births. 36.6.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 38.2.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.

DEATHS FROM :

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Age. Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	2	6	—	—	1	2	—	—

SECTION "B."

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided at the Royal Salop Infirmary.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—One ambulance is operated by the Borough of Bridgnorth and serves the Borough and, in the main, the Rural District. After the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, the ambulance service will be under control of the County Council and the Bridgnorth ambulance will be available for short journeys as before, and long distance journeys will be undertaken by ambulances from Cross Houses (Tel. No. 242).

NURSING IN THE HOME.—The County Council, which is the Local Health Authority, will, after July 5th, 1948, be responsible for all forms of Nursing in the Home.

TREATMENT CENTRES.—Clinics are provided at Bridgnorth Welfare Centre for Infants, School Children, Ante-Natal, Orthopædic and Tuberculosis Cases. There is a clinic at Shrewsbury for Venereal Diseases and there are others at Kidderminster and Wolverhampton.

SECTION "C."

WATER SUPPLIES.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME.—On the advice of their Consulting Engineer, the Council decided to divide their proposed water scheme into "Low" and "High" level sections. The former is designed to supply the low level areas of the Rural District by gravity from the Elan Aqueduct, which runs through the parishes of Neen Savage and Kinlet, whilst the high level scheme is to be prepared in conjunction with an adjoining Authority, Ludlow Rural District Council, in whose area the source of supply is situated.

Details of the Low Level Scheme were prepared during the year and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. The High Level Scheme has, so far, only reached the "Draft" stage.

HIGHLEY.—The parish water supply has been satisfactory during the year in quality, but the yield of the springs has given some cause for anxiety. During the months of September and October the quantity available for pumping fell below the minimum demands of the village, which is approximately 23,000 gallons per day for all purposes. The deficiency varied between 5,000 and 7,000 gallons daily. Had it not been for the ample storage available, some 300,000 gallons, it would have been necessary to have curtailed the supply during certain periods of the day.

ALVELEY.—Work has proceeded during the year on the construction of the new scheme for the village. Progress has been somewhat slow owing to the delay in the delivery of materials. The outstanding item at present is the erection of the elevated storage tank. Delivery is expected early next year, after which it is hoped to put the scheme into commission at once.

New mains are urgently needed in the village, because the existing mains are in such poor condition that repairs and attention are constantly needed, and also on account of their insufficient capacity.

CLAVERLEY.—Good progress has been made in this parish and the work of laying approximately 8.25 miles of main by the Wolverhampton Corporation's Water Undertaking is well advanced. It is expected that water will be available to consumers in January or February next year.

PARISHES OF KINLET AND ASTLEY ABBOTTS.—During the year the Council have increased their total pipe mileage by the addition of some 3.9 miles of mains in the parishes of Astley Abbotts

and Kinlet. Both were purchased from the War Department at a total cost of £800. Sixteen domestic premises and eight farms are supplied from these mains. Water is purchased in bulk from the Birmingham Corporation.

SUMMARY.—Some progress has been made during the past year, but, speaking generally, the need for improved water supplies is pressing throughout the whole district. In particular, I would draw attention to the parish of Highley, where, owing to insufficient water, bucket type closets are predominant and the Council are called upon to collect and dispose of the contents of receptacles from more than 300 premises in a very densely populated village. Sewers and disposal works, although not of modern construction, are available, and I am satisfied that the necessary improvements and alterations could be carried out at a cost which would not be excessive, but until a more plentiful and reliable source of water supply is available no useful purpose can be served by such expenditure.

Statistics in respect of premises supplied with water by the Council are detailed in the following table :—

Parish.	Premises Supplied		Per-
	(1) Direct.	(2) By Standpipe Only.	centage of Parish.
Alveley	14	96	38.6
Astley Abbots	11	—	8
Highley	294	205	84.5
Kinlet :			
(a) Meaton Lane	8	— } 2 }	23.5
(b) Button Oak	24		
Stottesdon	40	—	15
Tasley	33	—	63.5

In addition to schemes operated by the Council there are privately owned supplies in the following parishes. The number of

premises shown as supplied by these mains is provisional only and will not be known with accuracy until the Housing Survey has been completed.

Parish.							No. of Premises Supplied.
Aston Botterell	...	...	...	...	...	...	Unknown
Burwarton	...	...	...	...	...	...	Unknown
Cleobury North	...	...	...	...	...	...	Unknown
Ditton Priors	...	...	...	...	...	...	Unknown
Astley Abbotts	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ditton Priors	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Monkhopton	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Morville	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Worfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Shipton	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Easthope	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Stanton Long	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

A grant-aided scheme is in force whereby samples of water collected from within the area of the County of Salop may be submitted to the County Analyst for analysis at a reduced fee of 3/- per sample.

Bacteriological samples taken from public supplies are analysed free of charge at the Donaldson-Hudson Laboratory, Shrewsbury.

SAMPLING.—The whole of the public supplies, other than the wells, have been sampled at regular intervals during the year. Samples are also taken at the request of individual owners.

A summary of the samples taken throughout the year is shown in the following table :—

PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Location	Source of Supply.				Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
Highley	Springs in Londonderry Coppice				1	2	—
Alveley	Springs	...	...	...	1	—	—
Stottesdon	Springs at Hardwick		...	..	1	4	—

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Date.	Location.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
17/5/47	Blundell Farm, Stottesdon ...		Unfit.	
25/1/47	Morville Farm	Fit.		
25/1/47	Tap, Davenport, Worfield ...	Fit.		
19/2/47	Worfield School	Fit.		
25/3/47	11, Cranmere			Suspect.
25/3/47	12, Cranmere		Unfit.	
25/3/47	Public Well, Netchwood ...			Suspect.
23/4/47	Worfield Public Supply ...	Fit.		
26/4/47	No. 17, Mose	Fit.		
28/6/47	Admoor Cottages, Heathton ...		Unfit.	
24/7/47	Spring, Brooks Mouth Farm ...	Fit.		
30/7/47	Conduit Cottage, Astley Abbots	Fit.		

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Highley is the only parish within the Rural District having a proper system of sewers and sewage disposal works. In fact, there are two separate systems, the one serving the village proper, whilst the other serves the Woodhill area.

The outfall of the village scheme is at Wren's Nest and is now in need of general repairs and overhaul. These works do not function to their full capacity, owing to the fact that out of a total of 235 premises connected to the sewer some 25 only have water closets. In addition, few of these houses are connected direct to the water main owing to a general shortage, and are served by stand-pipes in the streets. Consequently, too little sewage passes through the works in dry weather, whilst in time of storm the works are overcharged, due to the fact that all surface water in the village is drained to the sewers.

The site of the outfall for the Woodhill Scheme is at New England. On the whole this system works satisfactorily excepting in time of storm, when the sewers become overcharged with surface

water and flooding takes place. Certain lengths of the sewer require enlarging to overcome this difficulty.

The village scheme now serves	238 premises.
Woodhill Scheme now serves	182 premises.
Vicarage Lane Council House Site serves	30 premises.
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Total ...	450
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of which some 210 premises have water closets.

A complete sewerage scheme is now in course of preparation for the village of Claverley, whilst the question of a similar scheme for the village of Alveley is under consideration.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE.—The weekly collection of house refuse in the parish of Highley continues to operate successfully, although great difficulty has been experienced in that householders have persisted in using ashpits instead of dustbins. It is hoped, however, that matters will improve in the near future.

During the year a scheme has been prepared for collecting house refuse throughout the more populous parts of the Rural District, and this is now being considered by the Council.

COLLECTION OF NIGHT SOIL.—The collection of night soil is a further service undertaken by the Council in the parish of Highley. A horse and special cart are used for the purpose and a contractor carries out the work. It is hoped that this obnoxious and obsolete method of disposal may be dispensed with as soon as an improved water supply is available in the village.

SECTION "D."

HOUSING.

Progress has been extremely disappointing during the year and the rate of erection of the Council's new houses has been very slow. No new houses have been completed by the Council, although a total of 22 have been commenced,

viz. : 6 at Morville,
16 at Alveley.

In addition, sanction has been given to the Council to erect 50 permanent prefabricated houses in the parish of Highley on a site at Woodhill. Plans for this scheme have reached an advanced stage and it is hoped that work will be commenced in the early spring.

A total of five new houses have been completed during the year. Of these four were erected under Sec. 3 (1) of the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946. The remaining houses were accounted for by private enterprise.

Details of new houses completed are as follows :—

Parish.						No. of Houses.
Burwarton	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shipton	...	...	...	...	...	2
Claverley	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						5

During the year a plan was prepared showing the future development of Alveley. The suggested scheme includes the provision of an additional 200 houses in the parish. As stated above, 16 houses are already under construction and plans have been prepared for a further 22, as part of this development scheme.

SECTION "E."

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Producers on the Register	...	...	...	...	329
Accredited	...	...	...	...	15
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	25
Heat Treatment Plants	...	...	...	...	None
No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	50

Reports on milk samples :—

T.T.	...	...	...	86 samples	64 passed	22 failed.
Acc.	...	...	...	62 samples	45 passed	17 failed.
Ungraded	...	...	...	15 samples	8 passed	7 failed.
H.T.	...	...	...	14 samples	10 passed	4 failed.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACT, 1944.—This Act has not yet come into operation and owing to difficulties, mainly of a legal nature, it has been decided by the Ministries concerned not to bring it into operation in 1948. It will, therefore, be necessary for the Local Authorities to make arrangements for the renewal of Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations for the year 1948-49, and to carry out any of their other duties in relation to the production of milk as in previous years.

MEAT.—Slaughtering of animals is carried out at Wolverhampton, from which centre meat is distributed to Bridgnorth Borough and Rural Districts.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED IN THE DISTRICT.—The following articles of foodstuffs were inspected during the year and found unfit for human consumption :

Carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.	Prunes, 50lbs.	Tomatoes, 6 tins.
Turnips, $8\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.	Beans, 2 tins.	Salmon, 2 tins.
Bacon, 24lbs.	Peas, 5 tins.	Vienna Sausage, 19 tins.
Ham, 16lbs.	Grapefruit, 4 tins.	Stewed Steak, 1 tin.
	Milk, 15 tins.	

ICE CREAM.—The Ice Cream (Heat Treatments, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into force on May 1st, 1947, whereby Local Authorities are enabled to exercise a greater degree of control over premises and plants for the production and sale of Ice Cream.

No. of dealers who make Ice Cream in the district	...	4
No. of samples taken for examination	...	Nil

SECTION "F."

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1947.—Measles cases were notified in considerable numbers from the end of January to the end of April and were not confined to any one area.

Whoopig Cough cases were in much the same numbers as in previous years.

Scattered cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the area, but there was no epidemic.

Chicken Pox was made temporarily notifiable, while Smallpox was prevalent in adjacent areas of the Midlands. Fifteen cases (9 non-civilian) were notified. There was no case of Smallpox. A considerable number of individuals were vaccinated at the time.

The district was fortunate in that only three cases (one non-civilian) of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred during one epidemic of 1947.

There were no cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, or Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.		Cases Admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths
	Civ.	Non-Civ.	Civ.	Non-Civ.	
Chicken Pox	6	9	—	9	—
Scarlet Fever	14	2	11	2	—
Pneumonia	14	6	1	6	3
Measles	160	9	—	9	—
Whooping Cough ...	31	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	1	—	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	1	—	1	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	1	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—The following annual return for the year ended 31st December, 1947, was made to the Ministry of Health :—

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947 :—

			Under 5	5-14	
Age at 31/12/47.			years.	years.	Total.
Number immunised	...	...	481	1,446	1,927
Estimated child population					
at mid 1947	...	...	1,074	1,993	3,067
Percentage considered					
immunised	...	...	44.7 %	72.5 %	62.8 %

